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TOI - READER'S GUIDE



Self-enumeration done by 1.3 lakh, door-to-door visits to begin today | 4

TIMES CITY 152

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026

TEMP ON FRIDAY
39.8° MAXIMUM
26.2° MINIMUM

FORECAST: Mainly clear sky. Max & min temperatures on Saturday would be around 42°C and 25°C

MOONSET 6.48PM (SAT)
SUNSET 7.05PM (SAT)

MOONRISE 5.25AM (SUN)
SUNRISE 5.30AM (SUN)

MCD plans biggest parking infrastructure expansion, including 9 multilevel hubs | 6

AQI IN DELHI ON FRIDAY (MODERATE)

St Stephen's College goes ahead with hirings despite DU inquiry | 7



Miles To Go Before Delhi Can Walk The Talk

People Urged To Ditch Cars, But Where Is Pedestrian Infra To Support Public Transport?

Auto, cab unions want fare revision after fuel price hike

ishita.jairath@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Amid rising fuel prices and PM Modi's appeal to people to reduce dependence on oil by choosing public transport, Delhiites are asking a question: What happens after our metro or bus rides end?

A commuter steps out of a metro station knowing a 10-minute walk will take him home. However, within seconds, the footpath disappears under a row of parked scooters, before an open drain forces him on the edge of the road, with buses and cars whizzing past barely inches away.

Contrast this with most of the cities across the world, where commuters step out of stations and safely walk home on uncluttered footpaths. In Delhi, however, negotiating that 'last mile stretch' often means dodging parked bikes, broken pavements, open drains and speeding traffic.

A debate resurfaced online on Friday after a social media post on Delhi's poor walking conditions struck a chord with many of its residents. The post said, "As an upper-middle-class resident of Delhi, I am happy to give up the car altogether. I can't drive and I don't have anyone to chauffeur me around. I like to walk, and walking seven or eight km a day is okay. Public transport or Uber for the rest. This is what I do whenever I am outside India. With zero hassles. Give me footpaths, which



LAJPAT NAGAR

Where cars claim the kerb

Photos: Anushka Kogta

PATPARGANJ

Pedestrians forced onto road

LAXMINAGAR

Footpaths lost

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New Delhi: While returning from work on Thursday night, an exhausted Shekhar decided to postpone refuelling his car till the next morning. But when he stopped at a petrol pump before heading to office on Friday, he came to know that fuel prices had gone up overnight. "I now have to shell out nearly Rs 200 extra for a full tank of diesel," he said while waiting at the pump.

By the time most Delhiites were stepping out for work on Friday, petrol and diesel prices had been hiked by Rs 3 a litre, pushing the former to Rs 97.77 and diesel to Rs 90.67. CNG, used by autos, cabs and a large section of commercial vehicles, was dearer by Rs 2 per kg in Delhi, taking the price to Rs 79.09 per kg.

The hike comes amid a surge in global crude prices triggered by tensions in West Asia and shipping disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, which have increased financial pressure on Indian oil companies.

Like Shekhar, many commuters, cab drivers, auto drivers and bikers reacted with blank expressions when informed of the hike while tanking up on Friday. "Have prices increased? By how much?"



Photo: Anushka Kogta



Commuters in Delhi have been hit hard as petrol and diesel prices are up by ₹3 per litre each. CNG price has also been increased by ₹2 per kg

ENERGY were already under severe financial strain owing to repea-

TIMES CITY

News That's Closer to Home

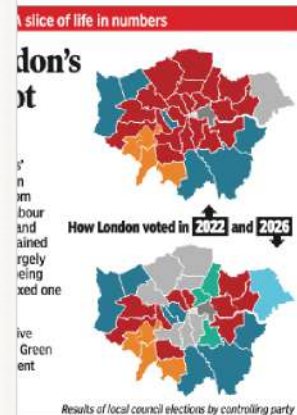
From potholes to politics, Times City covers what's happening in your gali, your sector, and your city hall. Hyperlocal news that affects your daily life; every morning, before you step out.



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**WOMEN CONVICTED UNDER UAPA, SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS
THREAT CALLS TO GADKARI FROM KARNATAKA PRISON**

**K'TAKA HC ASKS CENTRE TO PROBE BROADCASTS, DIGITAL
CONTENT ON MEDIA TRIAL AGAINST ACTOR DARSHAN**



**Weeks cancellation
ar accused bail,
ditions violated**

threat to national security.

The NIA said their participation in such activities is in clear contravention of the bail conditions, which prohibit them from engaging in meetings or activities that may further the objectives of banned organisations or pose a threat to public order.

UAE announces \$5bn investment in India as Modi meets Gulf nation prez

Without Naming Iran, PM Slams Attack On UAE

Sachin.Parashar
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New Delhi: India and the UAE sought to boost their energy, defence, shipping and technology ties, signing six MoUs and announcing investments worth \$5 billion from the Arab nation into India as PM Modi held bilateral talks with President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan during a brief stopover in Abu Dhabi on his way to Europe on Friday.

Modi reiterated India's strong condemnation of the attacks on the UAE, without naming Iran, as he said it's unacceptable the way the Gulf state was targeted.

"India stands with the UAE shoulder-to-shoulder under all circumstances and will continue to do so in the future too," the PM said while offering all possible support for the restoration of peace.

While one of the agree-

ENERGY BOOST FOR INDIA-UAE TIES

- Potential ADNOC crude oil storage in India's strategic petroleum reserves upto 30 million barrels; development of reserve facilities in Odisha
- Potential collaboration in liquid natural gas and liquid petroleum gas storage facilities in India
- Explore opportunities in the sale and purchase of LPG, including long-term supply of LPG, and entry into a long-term LPG sale and purchase agreement

Govt not planning curbs on foreign travel: PM

In an unusual move, PM Modi took to social media to trash speculation about govt planning curbs on foreign travel, dismissing it as "totally false" and emphasising that there is "not an iota of truth in this". Responding to a media report that said govt was considering a tax, cess or surcharge on foreign travel, Modi wrote on X, "There is no question of putting such restrictions on foreign travel. We remain committed to improving 'Ease of Doing Business' and 'Ease of Living' for our people." The PM's move underlined his resolve to stop any rumour that conveys an impression of panic about the state of economy from gaining ground after he made an appeal to people to conserve fuel, defer non-essential foreign trips and not buy gold for a year to save India's forex reserves.

security. Modi departed for the UAE in the morning while the Brics foreign ministers' meeting in Delhi was still under way and amid efforts by member states to bridge the

tes NBD in the RBL Bank of India, \$1 billion by the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority with the National Infrastructure & Investment Fund of India in priority infrastructure

Abu Dhabi to ramp up crude storage, India's reserve may go up 70%

Atul.Mathur@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: India's crude security is all set to get a boost with its reserve likely to increase by nearly 70% from 5.3 million tonnes, as the UAE's Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) has agreed to ramp up crude oil storage to as much as 30 million barrels.

Officials said the UAE already has leased storage capacity at Mangalore in India, where it keeps nearly 6 million barrels, or around eight lakh tonnes, of crude. Ramping up the storage to 30 million barrels will add over four million tonnes of crude to India's overall strategic reserves.

India currently has a strategic petroleum reserve of 5.3 million tonnes (MT) at Visakhapatnam, Mangalore



PM Modi with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi, Friday

ploring LNG and LPG storage possibilities in India, besides crude storage in Fujairah as part of India's strategic petroleum reserve. The UAE is among the top five suppliers of crude to India, besides having long-term contracts for LPG and natural gas. The UAE recently anno-

**28 of Mani
hostages fr
several m
still in capt**

Guwahati: Conflict in Manipur's inter-tribe crisis eased Friday as 28 of over three dozen hostages abducted by armed groups and Kuki-Zo groups were released in batches over response to appeals by govt and other intermediaries, reports Prabin K

The trigger for the violence spree was a May 10 clash in which three people were killed, turning from a Churpur congregation in Kangpokpi district. A Chiru Nagman by unidentified armed forces led to retaliatory "de-targeting" of Kuki-Zo. The victim's wife was killed in the attack. The freed since include 12 men from Kongsakhu and 14 Kukis, 10 of whom were women. The Kuki group handed over to security in Senapati district last day, sources said. The hostages from a Catholic land, were also released. The exact number of hostages still to be released is unclear. Home-

TIMES NATION

The Nation's Story, **Daily**

From Delhi's power corridors to India's panchayats, Times Nation covers the politics, policy, and people moving the country forward. The biggest national stories ; broken, explained, and contextualised.



IER BARDEM SAYS 'TOXIC MASCULINITY' OF TRUMP, PUTIN, BIBI
BLAME FOR WARS: 'IT'S CREATING THOUSANDS OF DEAD PEOPLE'

NEXT 'BOND' MOVIE WRITER STEVEN KNIGHT HINTS 007 IS ABOUT TO
GET SHAKEN & STIRRED: 'HAVE GOT LICENCE TO PLAY WITH AGENT'

'Inflexible concessions' in US response to Iran plan: Reports



The USS Gerald R Ford aircraft carrier, dispatched to West Asia, returned to the US on Saturday after a 326-day deployment, the Pentagon said. It was the longest deployment for a US carrier strike group since the Vietnam War

an assets frozen abroad under longstanding US sanctions, according to the Iranian foreign ministry in a press conference last week. Fars said the Iranian proposal had emphasised that Tehran would continue to manage the strategic Strait of Hormuz, a vital energy conduit which it has largely kept closed since the start of the war.

UAE calls hit on N-reactor unprovoked terrorist attack

Continued from P1

The UAE "condemned in the strongest terms the unprovoked terrorist attack" and "will not tolerate any threat to its security and sovereignty under any circumstances", a foreign ministry statement said. "These attacks constitute a dangerous escalation, an unacceptable act of aggression and a direct threat to the country's security," it added.

During the war that began with US and Israeli strikes against Iran on Feb 28, Iran has repeatedly targeted the UAE and other Gulf states that host US military bases, hitting sites that include civilian and energy infrastructure.

The UAE has hosted air defences and personnel from Is-



The Barakah Nuclear Power Plant

rael said three drones came over its western border with Saudi Arabia, with the other two intercepted. It was investigating who launched them.

The \$20 billion Barakah nuclear power plant was built by the UAE with the help of South Korea and went online in 2020. It is the only nuclear power plant in the Arab world and can provide a quarter of the energy needs in the UAE. The UAE's nuclear regulator said on X the fire didn't affect

Measles kills 450 kids in B'desh; probe sought into Yunus' vax policy

Ahsan Tasnim

Dhaka: With measles killing over 450 kids in Bangladesh since mid-March, a court order has been sought for barring former interim govt chief adviser Muhammad Yunus and 24 others from leaving the country pending completion of probe into the shortage of measles vaccines during his tenure.

Though measles is highly preventable with two doses of vaccine — administered from age of nine months — Bangladesh allegedly had a severe shortage of vaccines between 2024 and 2025, when Yunus was chief of the interim govt.

In his PIL, filed before Bangladesh High Court and likely to be heard Monday, Supreme Court lawyer M Ashrafur Islam has sought directives for govt to investigate the role of Yunus and the others over the measles vaccine issue.

Health experts and doctors under the banner of 'Bangladesh Child Protection Initiative' have blamed the interim govt and the then health admini-

Faced with war, crackdown against Baha'is rising in Iran

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The Baha'i community in India has been deeply distressed by the war in Iran, which has seen an uptick in persecution of Iranian Baha'is. Many Indian Baha'is originally came from Iran and continue to have relatives in that country.

With the Islamic Republic regime tightening its grip and brutally crushing any internal opposition during the conflict, the crackdown has been harsh on Iranian Baha'is, the country's largest non-Muslim minority community.

"There's a history of persecution of Iranian Baha'is that became a systematic state policy after the 1979 Islamic Revolution," says Nilakshi Rajkhowa, representative of the Baha'i office of public affairs. "Whenever there is a crisis in Iran, Baha'is are made scapegoats. The Islamic Republic constitution doesn't even recognise the Baha'i faith, and there was even a 1991



Demonstrators hold signs during a protest rally in Washington DC on Saturday to condemn the execution of political prisoners in Iran

vand and Borna Naeimi.

According to Iran Human Rights, 30-year-old Peyvand was arrested on Jan 8 in Kerman. He was accused of encouraging other Iranian youth to protest, wasn't given a lawyer, and was reportedly subjected to torture in detention, including mock executions.

Borna was arrested on March 1 and similarly subjected to torture. The authorities extracted forced confessions out of the cousins under extreme duress for the killing of three security personnel, ac-

game keeps linking Baha'is to Israel because of this. In modern Israel didn't even back then, it was part of old Ottoman Empire. Farah Motalebi, who was born and raised in Tehran.

"Last July, my mother law passed away in Shiraz in eastern Iran, where she was denied burial. They took her body 300 km to another city for burial, the consistent persecution have faced for 40 years."

Another Iranian-origin Baha'i, Romina (name changed), details her family tribulations. "My sister was arrested and jailed along with her one-month-old baby in 1980. She also had a two-year-old child at the time, she had to leave at home alone. My sister's crime was accused of teaching children — the Iranian regime treats Baha'is as ungodly. Therefore, they are removed from teaching, especially education classes."

"Yes, the regime is persecuting Christianity, Judaism,

TIMES GLOBAL

Across Borders, Beyond Headlines

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The Week That Was...

Sensex takes a hit with its end in sight to West Asia crisis

The Sensex fell over 2,000 points in five trading sessions as surging oil prices weighed on sentiment. IT stocks declined for the week on renewed concerns over AI-led earnings disruption.

Sensex
-2.7%

TIMES BUSINESS

* THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026

Sensex Gainers

Bharti Airtel	3.9%
Adani Ports	2%
Kotak Mahindra	1.6%

Sensex Losers

Titan	-7.5%
Reliance	-6.9%
Tech Mahindra	-6.3%

Laggards

Titan	-7.5%
Reliance	-6.9%
Tech Mahindra	-6.3%

GOLD
+3.5%

CRUDE
+7.7%

BITCOIN
+2.7%

8.3%

Wholesale price index (WPI) rose to a 42-month high of 8.3% in April from 3.9% in March, according to data released by the ministry of commerce and industry on Thursday.

Source: ETIC, Yahoo Finance

Brace for price rise after fuel hike

Inflation May Increase 10-25 Bps, RBI Likely To Reassess Projections For Yr

Times News Network

New Delhi: The increase in retail prices of petrol and diesel is expected to drive headline inflation print by 10-25 basis points (bps) in the coming months, with analysts cautioning that cascading impact of higher fuel costs could force RBI to reassess its inflation projections for the year.

Several companies, which were holding on to price hikes, are now expected to raise rates, citing higher transport and input costs.

Freight rates for goods transported by road are likely to rise by 2.5-3%, said All India Transporters Welfare Association (AITWA). The transporters' body said the industry has been facing cost pressure over the last few weeks as prices of Diesel Exhaust Fluid or urea used in BS-VI vehicles have shot up by more than 60%, while that of tyres, lubricants, toll charges, and several other inputs have also increased.

Transport, Input Costs Set To Rise

- Several companies are now expected to raise rates, citing higher transport and input costs.
- Freight rates for goods transported by road are likely to increase by 2.5-3%.
- Diesel contributes around 50-55% of truck operating costs, and with increases in fuel prices, tolls, insurance, tyres, maintenance and compliance expenses, transporters are struggling for survival.

The impact of the fuel price revision will start showing up in the May consumer price index (CPI) print, with full transmission likely from June onwards. Most economists are revising the projections for the year. IDFC First Bank chief economist Gautam Sen Gupta said today's change in petrol and diesel prices will add 12 bps to headline CPI inflation, incorporating only the direct pass-through as May CPI inflation is estimated at 3.9%. "We expect a cumulative rise of up to 10% in retail petrol and diesel prices (including today's increase), spread over the next few months. Full-year FY27 CPI inflation is expected to average 4.5%," he said.

Aditi Nigam, chief economist at ICRA Ratings expects the fuel price hike to push up the average retail inflation by 20 basis points (20 bps) in May 2026 to 4.3% from 4.1%, she said.

According to Radhika Rao, senior economist at DSS Bank, higher pump prices are likely to moderate demand and consequently the impact

harden. "Given the weightage of petrol and diesel in the CPI basket, a 3.5% increase likely adds 15-25 bps to the headline print, besides second round impact," she said.

Economists warn that the concern is not merely the direct impact of fuel inflation, but also the second-round effects taking place through transportation, logistics, manufactured goods and services.

Megha Arora, director at India Ratings & Research pointed to the additional pressure coming from rising milk prices, alongside fuel costs. "The combined effect of petrol, diesel and milk price is likely to increase the CPI inflation by around 42 bps. The actual impact is likely to be higher via the fuel user industry like transportation and others. However, the impact in the month of May 2026 could be around 20bps," she said.

Oil drives Apr exports to highest in 4 years

Imports Up 10%, Trade Deficit At 3-Mth High

Times News Network

New Delhi: Higher petroleum prices propelled India's exports to \$43.6 billion, the highest monthly level in over four years, showing a 13.8% growth, which is fastest in five months. Imports rose at a more moderate pace of 9.9% to \$71.9 billion, resulting in a trade deficit of 28.3 billion, a three-month high.

Oil product exports jumped 34.7% to \$9.5 billion in April, next only to engineering (\$10.3 billion). Diesel, aviation fuel and petrol exports had shrunk nearly 15% to under \$54 billion last year as global prices remained muted.

In April, among the top export items, only electronics clocked a faster growth, rising over 40% to \$5.2 billion. The change in fortunes due to higher international prices also meant that India's

SHOWING RESILIENCE



silver imports soared from \$150 million to \$411 million. Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said Indian exports had registered healthy growth, despite global headwinds.

The disruption in West Asia has, however, affected trade with the region, with

and stated that Indian consumers and exporters have so far been largely insulated from its impact due to limited or no pass through. Agrawal also said that the commerce department will work towards pushing the overall exports, including services, to \$1 trillion in

WHILE INDIA STILL WAITS, CHINA REACHES WC DEAL WITH FIFA

Beijing: China Media Group, the parent of China's state broadcaster, said on Friday it had reached a World Cup broadcasting deal with FIFA, ending a standoff over TV rights less than a month before the tournament kicks off in the US, Mexico and Canada. The package covers the 2026 and 2030 tournaments as well as the women's World Cup in 2027 and 2031, state broadcaster CCTV said.

CMG has secured exclusive media and sub-licensing rights in mainland China for the four-tournament cycle, spanning free-to-air and paid TV as well as online and mobile platforms, CCTV said, without disclosing financial terms. FIFA on Friday confirmed the agreement with CMG.

Broadcast rights for the upcoming tournament alone cost \$60 million, according to China's state-backed outlet The Paper. FIFA earlier this month said it had concluded broadcast agreements in more than 175 territories worldwide, while negotiations in India are still ongoing.

SHORT PASSES

Ronaldo judged on form not age, says coach Martinez

Cristiano Ronaldo is 41, but Portugal coach Roberto Martinez said age is only a number and that his captain is judged on current form and by the same standards as everyone else. Ronaldo could play in a sixth World Cup with the tournament in North America set to begin in less than a month, a staggering possibility even for a player who has twisted football's record books into new shapes. Yet Martinez, speaking to Reuters in Lisbon on Thursday, insisted Portugal uses not Ronaldo's age, but

Mbappe leads France's charge; Camavinga dropped

Deschamps Hands Robin Risser Surprise Call-Up

Paris: France's World Cup roster reveal on Thursday included a star-studded assortment of talent, with Real Madrid midfielder Eduardo Camavinga arguably the most notable omission.

Currently No. 1 in the FIFA rankings, France are one of the clear pre-tournament favourites with Didier Deschamps' roster led by Kylian Mbappe. He will be joined by the likes of forwards Ousmane Dembele and Michael Olise, midfielders Aurelien Tchouameni and N'Golo Kante, defenders William Saliba, Jules Kounde and Theo Hernandez, and goalkeeper Mike Maignan.

Camavinga did not figure into the 26-man roster despite being part of France's runner-up team in 2022. He was called up for March friendlies but has been passed over at Real Madrid by Thiago Pitarch. "He had a difficult season for him where he played less. He also had injuries," Deschamps said. "It's true that he's a player who came very early with us. He is still a young player. Because I have choices to make the squad structure also has to be even among the defenders, the midfielders and the forwards. But I understand his enormous disappointment."

Deschamps also opted to go with Rennes' Brice Sanja and Lens' Robin Risser, who was named the top goalkeeper of Ligue 1 this season, as Maignan's backups. That meant leaving out Lucas Chevalier, who lost the starting job at Paris Saint-Germain to Marvin Simon earlier this year.

France will play pre-World Cup friendlies against Ivory Coast and Northern Ireland before travelling to their base in Boston. They will begin Group I against Senegal on June 16 before matches against Iraq on June 22 and Norway on June 26.



REMEMBER THE TIME... Camavinga (r) chases Messi during the 2022 World Cup final in Doha

TOMIYASU MAKES JAPAN RETURN

Tokyo: Former Arsenal defender Takehiro Tomiyasu has been included in Japan's squad by head coach Hajime Moriyasu despite not playing for the club since 2022, for almost two years due to a series of injuries. The central defender, who currently plays for Ajax after his contract was annulled by mutual consent with Arsenal last year, was included in the 26-man squad announced by the coach in Tokyo on Friday. Tomiyasu last played for Japan against Syria in 2024, sources

'OUT OF SHAPE' LUKAKU NAMED IN BELGIUM SQUAD

Brussels: Belgium coach Rudi Garcia named Romelu Lukaku in his squad despite saying Belgium's all-time record goalscorer was "out of shape". Lukaku, who has scored 69 goals in 124 international appearances, has struggled for form and fitness at Serie A club Napoli this season. The 35-year-old former Inter Milan and Chelsea forward has only played 60 minutes of first-team football in 2025 and is currently sidelined by a hip injury, -Romelu has, source

Mbappe booted on Real return; says he's team's 'fourth striker'

Madrid: Real Madrid star Kylian Mbappe was whistled by fans at the Santiago Bernabeu in his return to the club on Thursday.

Real Oviedo on Thursday in La Liga. The Frenchman returned from a high injury as a substitute for Los Blancos, who will finish a second straight season without a trophy after Barcelona were crowned league champions. Mbappe later said he is now the fourth-choice forward at Real Madrid after manager Alvaro Arbeloa left him out of the starting line-up for their 2-0 win over Oviedo, after Arbeloa opted to play Vinicio Junior and Gonzalo Garcia in attack. Mbappe told reporters fitness was not an issue. "I'm 100% fine. I haven't played because for the coach I've been the fourth striker in the squad behind (Franco Mastantuono, Vini and Gonzalo," he said. "I was ready to start, it's his decision and it always has to be respected."

"I have no problem at all with Arbeloa. I have to do better to play ahead of Vini, Gonzalo and Mastantuono."

Madrid, without Mbappe, lost the Clasico at Camp Nou on Sunday to confirm Hansi Flick's side as title winners. Their top goalscorer Mbappe has come in for heavy criticism from the club's fans in recent weeks for a perceived lack of commitment. Gonzalo Garcia and Jude Bellingham scored in a 2-0 win over Oviedo at a

Every game, every morning. From cricket and football to the Olympics and IPL. TOI brings you the scores, stories, and stars of world sport.





CONTRAPUNTO

The best way to destroy the capitalist system
is to debase the currency

—VLADIMIR LENIN

Being Chipper

With Tata-ASML deal, India's finally getting
into chip manufacturing, and in a big way

I won't be long before semiconductors, or chips, sold in a year are worth more than oil. Just last week, TSMC, world's largest chipmaker, said annual chip sales could touch \$1.5tn by 2030. How many might be made in India? A few days ago, the answer would have been a clueless shrug. Now, after Saturday's agreement between Tata Electronics and Dutch firm ASML, it's fair to say we'll be a significant player.

Truth is, we are big players in chipmaking already. Only not in the most obvious way, which is to manufacture the chips themselves. Our tech talent has a big role in the brainy job of chip design. By most estimates, 20% of world's chip design engineers are Indian. Early this year, Qualcomm acknowledged the contribution of its Indian team in the making of 2nm chips – currently the most advanced. We've also become big players in back-end tasks of testing and packaging chips made by others. Two years ago, we were ranked the third most attractive destination for these tasks, behind Taiwan and Malaysia.

The Tata-ASML deal, however, puts us on the road to actual chip manufacturing, the front end. ASML, if it's slipped your attention, is the only manufacturer of machines that print out circuits on silicon wafers. Each of which costs a few hundred million dollars. And Tata's plan is to invest \$11bn in its brand-new chip factory at Dholera, Gujarat. But it won't make headline-grabbing 2nm chips, or even the 4nm type that's a smartphone staple now. Instead, it will make workhorse chips of sizes ranging from 28nm to 110nm.

That's not a bad thing, because bulk of chip demand is for these 'mature' types that have been around for years. For example, 2013's iPhone 5s had a 28nm chip. These older generation chips cost a few dollars each now, but are indispensable in cars, and industrial equipment. Their shortage can jam assembly lines. And as the big-name firms pivot to making AI chips, shortages of mature chips are looming. That's why China is ramping up capacity, and it's a good opportunity for India to make the leap, too. The fact that Tata has chosen to use 300mm wafers, rather than 200mm, to fabricate chips shows it's aiming for scale. GOI also wants 70-75% of India's chip demand fulfilled locally. That will save billions in forex, and quell any doubts about our chipmaking ambitions.

Protect, Don't Lecture

Himachal HC should have responded differently
to a habeas corpus case

A man seeks Himachal HC's help, for a woman whose life he believes to be under threat, going by her text messages to him. Himachal HC division bench, instead of stepping up, and maybe hearing the woman also, packs the petitioner off with a morality lecture. Only because the petitioner was the married woman's live-in. And the petitioner feared her husband and mother-in-law detained her forcibly.

The two judges were least mindful that SC decriminalised 'adultery' (extramarital sexual relationships), in 2018. They ignored a married woman's perceived threat to life. The bench only saw a man in an 'affair' with a married woman. HC refused to 'enter' a married couple's 'life' – "It is not for this court to intervene in matrimonial issues inter se the woman and her husband." It cannot be denied that the bench brought into their court a misplaced morality bias. It dismissed a habeas corpus – a very specific legal instrument to protect individuals from unlawful or arbitrary detention. This, when SC, in 2024, put out guidelines/safeguards for HCs to deal with 'detention' by those with family authority, following a case where a petitioner alleged that an LGBTQ+ person was being held by family, against their wish. In this case, HC glanced by that case. Instead, it said, "Judicial sanctity cannot be given to adulterous relations." Surely, a petitioner's relationship should not have so much bearing where threat to life is alleged? There is nothing that would stop HC from penalising the petitioner, if the case were found to be frivolous.

Why not, instead, put out a query about the woman's status? CJs have repeated often that judges should desist from colouring verdicts with personal views, even in obiter dicta. But the judges barely looked beyond the fact of the woman's relationship outside

family authority, following a case where a petitioner alleged that an LGBTQ+ person was being held by family, against their wish. In this case, HC glanced by that case. Instead, it said, "Judicial sanctity cannot be given to adulterous relations." Surely, a petitioner's relationship should not have so much bearing where threat to life is alleged? There is nothing that would stop HC from penalising the petitioner, if the case were found to be frivolous.

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Let The Rupee
Do Its Work

Falling exchange rate can curb imports
more effectively than austerity measures. Don't
intervene in forex market

Gita Gopinath



Prof. Harvard
University

India faces a familiar policy conundrum. A sharp rise in global prices of oil, gas, and fertilisers, triggered by conflict in West Asia, is weighing on growth while putting pressure on the rupee.

To reduce the import bill and conserve foreign exchange, PM Modi has called on citizens to adopt voluntary austerity: commute less, work from home where possible, rely on public transport and carpooling, defer overseas travel, curb gold purchases, and prioritise domestically produced goods.

It is useful to begin by clarifying what is – and is not – at stake. India's close to \$700bn in foreign exchange reserves will not run out because of higher imports. The only way reserves get depleted is if RBI decides to sell foreign exchange reserves to support the rupee. The real policy question, therefore, is not whether reserves will run out, but whether the central bank should actively defend the exchange rate.

Allowing the rupee to weaken has a key virtue: It works through prices. A depreciation raises the cost of imported goods and overseas travel in rupee terms, encouraging households and firms to economise on precisely those expenditures that strain the balance of payments. In doing so, it delivers more effectively and more durably – the shift towards domestic spending that voluntary restraint seeks to achieve.

There are circumstances in which defending the currency is justified. Intervention can be warranted if depreciation threatens financial stability, reflects disorderly or speculative market conditions, or risks unanchoring inflation expectations. But none of these concerns appear pressing in India today. Inflation expectations remain broadly anchored, and financial institutions are not significantly exposed to currency risks. Owing to improved macroeconomic frameworks, India is more resilient than in earlier episodes of external stress.

It is also worth recalling that there is nothing intrinsically virtuous about a particular level of the exchange rate. The exchange rate is a relative price, not a policy target in itself. Its role is to act as a shock absorber. When an external shock, such as a surge in commodity prices, raises the import bill, allowing the currency to adjust helps the economy absorb the impact. Attempting to resist that adjustment can delay, and ultimately amplify, the required correction.

Defending the currency is especially challenging in a world where capital flows are volatile. Exchange rates are often driven less by imports and exports than by global demand for financial assets. At present, with US inflation still elevated and interest rates expected to remain higher for longer, global investors have strong incentives to hold dollar assets. If, on top of this, the rupee is perceived as being artificially supported, investors may hesitate to hold rupee assets, anticipating eventual depreciation.

Such expectations can intensify pressure on the currency rather than relieve it. This is why attempts to manage the exchange rate too tightly can prove counterproductive. Allowing for flexibility in the exchange rate reduces import spending, raises export earnings and sustains capital inflows, all of which support the rupee.

A related issue is fuel pricing. Holding retail prices below market levels helps shield consumers from global price increases. But this comes at a considerable fiscal cost, estimated by ICRIER at about 0.6% of GDP annually. It weakens the very adjustment mechanism the economy needs.

Suppressed prices blunt incentives to conserve energy and disproportionately benefit higher-income households, who consume more fuel. Allowing prices at the pump to rise, as was recently done, encourages conservation organically while targeted cash transfers could protect vulnerable households from the impact.

None of this is to dismiss the merits of some elements of voluntary restraint. Greater use of public transport and expanded work-from-home arrangements can reduce congestion and pollution – benefits that justify such shifts regardless of external conditions. Importantly, though, allowing for the exchange rate to depreciate and prices to rise will strongly incentivise the behavioural change the PM desires.

RBI, for its part, should continue to

Woo Investors,
Go Electric

To increase resilience, massively scale up
renewables, electrify transport, and make India
attractive for world's best companies

Neeraj Kaushal



Prof. Columbia
University

From an oasis of comfort to crisis-time (sanat kaal) in mere weeks? That was fast. Mid-April, GOI declared India an oasis of comfort and looked condescendingly at those countries responding to skyrocketing crude prices, triggered by Iran-US-Israel war, with fuel price increases, and mandatory shorter workweeks, to cut down their oil and gas consumption. India, GOI then claimed, didn't need to resort to such emergency measures. By May, however, deep in sanat kaal, GOI itself appeared on the verge of adopting some of these very same steps.

What happened? State elections? To be clear, the elections didn't cause the economic crisis, but just created a reason for the party in office to continue in the slumber of denial, and splurge with promises of welfare schemes to voters. Now that elections are over, BJP is back in governance mode – asking

decision makers to determine crude prices. Likewise, shipping and insurance premiums, which have increased manifold, may remain higher, on account of the risk of such disruptions. Spot shipping rates on the benchmark West Asia-to-Asia route have nearly tripled, reportedly, since the war started. Permanent rise in pricing, geopolitical risk in the capital market could result in lasting increases in costs of borrowing, for countries like India, vulnerable to geopolitical shocks.

Some assurance: Previous oil crises – a few much bigger than the current one – document that over time, the global economy weathers these crises with resilience. Yet, CEAs's warning underscores serious vulnerabilities. Addressing these risks requires both short-term strategies to avoid a balance of payments crisis, but more importantly, long-term strategies to build resilience and reduce future vulnerability.

Increasing prices of petrol and diesel was a key short-term fix. Another is to reduce fertiliser subsidy in particular subsidy on urea. We were, till last week, in a precarious situation where, while world crude price increased from \$60 a barrel, before war started, to more than \$100 a barrel, yet the Indian motorist was paying nearly the same pre-war price.

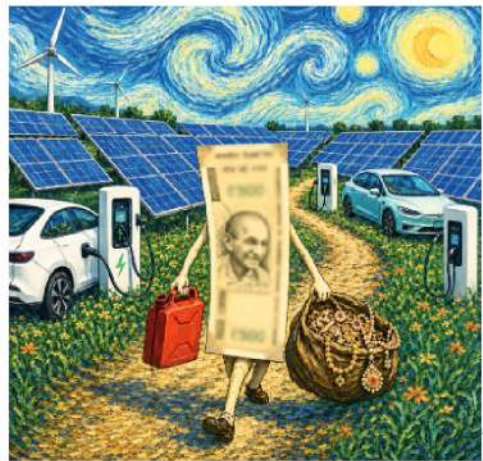
Oil Marketing Companies have not increased the price and their cumulative loss in the first quarter of 2026 is projected to rise to ₹11 cr. Leaving the price unchanged made sense for a few weeks. But the cost – of keeping the price below the market for the Indian motorist – was that demand-side adjustment would not take place.

Nagewar stated – GOI's top priorities are to manage current account deficit and prevent any further rupee depreciation. RBI is struggling to keep the rupee from depreciating. On CAD, while the situation is serious, we're not in any major crisis, as of now. CAD was less than \$100 bn, and under the high crude price scenario, it's projected to rise to 2%, which is less than half of what it was in 2012-2013, something that contributed to the taper tantrum.

Building long-term resilience to geo-political risks would require changing the composition of our energy sources. We grossly neglected electrification that would reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. While massive wind and solar energy projects have been installed in the sunny and windy states of Gujarat and Rajasthan in recent years, we have neglected investments in transmission lines, leading to energy transmission bottlenecks in these states. This has forced developers to scale back several gigawatts of generation capacity. Our topmost priority should be to invest in transmission. We also need to scale up our battery storage system.

Electrification of the transport sector is the need of the hour. Electric cars, buses, and trucks are cheaper to run, and reduce pollution. China is leading the world in electric cars and battery storage, yet, we have rejected proposals from BYD, the world's biggest electric auto producer and second-biggest battery producer, when it proposed a billion-dollar investment. Great Wall Motor's proposal for a billion-dollar project was also rejected. Nudging the consumer is okay, but increasing resilience requires opening the economy to the best companies.

The writer teaches social policy and is Research Associate at National Bureau of Economic Research, US



clearly communicate its framework for foreign exchange intervention, emphasising that the objective is not to target a specific level of the rupee, but to safeguard price stability and financial stability. This can depend on circumstances, call for limited currency intervention in the future. This must, however, occur prudently, given the shock-prone world we live in. It will help to keep open-mindedness.

Over time, as India's growth prospects remain strong, reforms deepen and help encourage higher levels of foreign direct investment, and renewable energy further replaces imported fossil fuel, the rupee is likely to appreciate in real terms. But at the current moment, in the face of external shocks, resilience comes not from resisting adjustment but from enabling it. Voluntary restraint is one form of adjustment. A larger adjustment will occur if prices rise and the currency depreciates. Let the rupee do the work.

The writer is Gregory and Anita Coffey Professor of Economics

citizens to grow up and stop behaving like spoiled voters, frittering away precious reserves on gold purchases, foreign vacations, and weddings.

First came Modi's nudge asking Indians to reduce dependence on imported goods, avoid buying gold, use EVs, public transports/carpools, cancel vacations/weddings abroad for a year. I'm all for nudging.

If it works, it's better than crushing imports, or reducing access to forex with restrictive policies.

Putting restrictions on imports reduces productivity. Imposing forex restrictions channels forex demand to the hawala market.

More ominous than PM's nudge was CEA Nagewar's warning. There is a "permanent re-pricing of geopolitical risk across energy, capital, and commodity markets," he recently said at an annual CII summit. Meaning, even if war ends soon, oil & gas prices may remain high because the risk of disruptions in places like Hormuz will remain high, and markets will continue to add these risks while

Calvin & Hobbes

I AM NOT SCARED
OF THIS BALL.

Sacredspace

Nothing retains
its sacredness

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THE TIMES OF INDIA



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Banks use AI everywhere, from chatbots to validating cheques

AI Systems Are Helping Overcome Human Fatigue, and Reduce Errors, Frauds and Processing Times

It is a little hard, change in a person's behavior is a long process. But for an artificial intelligence (AI) system, it is a matter of minutes. Banks are using AI to automate their processes, from chatbots to validating cheques. This is helping them to overcome human fatigue, reduce errors, frauds, and processing times. AI systems are also being used to detect fraudulent transactions and to provide personalized services to customers.



SALARY CREDIT ERRORS DOWN

For corporates, banks have been able to reduce salary credit errors by using AI. This is because AI can detect patterns and anomalies in the data, which helps to identify and correct errors before they are processed.

KYC IN 10 MINUTES

AI is also being used to streamline the Know Your Customer (KYC) process. By using AI, banks can quickly verify a customer's identity and risk profile, which reduces the time and cost of the process.

Deploying AI helps automate services, checks and reduces process time, making for greater efficiency. With more data collected, it becomes easier to detect fraud and other risks.

AI in Banking

AI is being used in various ways in banking, from chatbots to fraud detection. This is helping banks to provide better services to their customers and to reduce their operational costs.

TECH I'D LIKE TO SEE

Tech can make life sustainable

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TIMES TECHIES

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI • FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2015

TIMES Special

23

3-Year Backstory Behind PM's Appeal

Richa Gandhi@timesofindia.com

The reasons for the drought of dollars in India — most visible in the weakening value of rupee — is not rooted in the events of the past few months. It has been brewing for nearly three years, and has now been pushed to a crisis point by the policies.

record-shattering amounts to our dollar kitty. In official accounts they are defined as 'invisible'. But even more record-shattering has been dollar outflows by foreign investors from Indian stocks or single entities like Hyundai IPO and foreign venture capital cashing out their long-held investments in startups that got listed.

The 8 charts below — picked from a larger number of entries from India's balance of payments — highlight how the 'structural problem' (trade) coinciding with the 'behavioural problem' (gold/travel) and an 'investor problem' (FDI/FPI) has resulted in a foreign exchange 'market problem' (rupee crash).



SCIENCE OF THE TIMES

Finds That Urban Cooling Remains Weakest in Poorer, Hottest Regions Of The World. Trees Cut Extra City Heat By Half. But Not Quite Where Most Needs.

Urban heat island effect is a phenomenon where the temperature in an urban area is higher than the surrounding rural areas. This is due to the heat absorbed by buildings, roads, and other urban structures. The effect is most pronounced in poorer, hotter regions of the world.

URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT

The study found that the urban heat island effect is most pronounced in poorer, hotter regions of the world. This is due to the heat absorbed by buildings, roads, and other urban structures. The effect is most pronounced in poorer, hotter regions of the world.

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SCIENCE

TIMES SPECIAL



Bennett & Coleman

THE TIMES OF INDIA

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020

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NUTRITION PREVENTION WELLNESS BODY TIPS, TRENDS & TECH

Long before it locks, jaw sends warnings. What are those?

Stress on joint essential for talking, chewing shows up in facial niggles that most ignore

Malathi Jayaraj@timesofindia.com

On an evening in August last year, Rupal Shah (name changed) woke up with a sudden lockjaw that scared her out of her wits. Despite hot fomentation, her jaws wouldn't open a centimetre. "I couldn't eat, and had to drink hot coffee using a straw," recalls the 45-year-old economics professor. What seemed like a sudden crisis was, in fact, the result of a joint disorder that doctors say had likely been progressing for a decade or more.

The temporomandibular joint (TMJ) sits on both sides of the face, and acts as the hinge connecting the jawbone to the skull. It is essential for talking, chewing, yawning and swallowing. When this joint, or the muscles and ligaments around it, stops functioning properly the result is a temporomandibular disorder (TMD). According to Mumbai-based Dr Varun Kunte, who is treating Shah, Indian studies estimate 25% of the population has had at least some minor TMJ symptoms at any given time. "Around 65% of these patients can have significant issues requiring medical attention," he says.

TMJ disorders can trigger pain, clicking, locking, stiffness, headaches, facial discomfort, ear symptoms and

WHY JAW HURTS, CLICKS OR LOCKS

Temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorder is a group of conditions that causes pain and dysfunction in jaw movement. Symptoms include:

■ **Face, neck, Pain or heavy ache**

■ **Mouth:** Trouble chewing, pain while eating, Clicking, popping, noise while opening mouth

■ **Ears:** Pain inside and around ear, noises such as tinnitus

■ **Jaw:** Pain, tenderness, sometimes a lockjaw



COMMON CAUSES

patterns are changing too, and doctors say that matters. "The average Indian diet was chapati, bhaji and some rasam. But nowadays, people chose hard and chewy things," says Dr Behra, adding, "I once got called for an emergency when a youngster, who bought this huge burger while driving on a highway, got a locked jaw when he opened his mouth too wide to bite into it."

Some also point to broader structural changes. "Previously, people would have 32 teeth, but the jaw seems to be shrinking with many people having only 28," says Hyderabad-based TMJ specialist Dr Rishabh Gowardhan. The "overload" on the "restructuring system"—teeth, muscles and TMJ—may be the reason more cases are surfacing. "Previously, people would have teeth issues, but now due to lifestyle issues such as grinding teeth when stressed, there is a load on the muscles and the joint, triggering TMJ," he adds.

However, Dr Ajay Roychowdhury of AIIMS Delhi, a pioneer in TMJ surgery in India, insists there isn't an actual increase in incidence. "It's better awareness that is leading to better diagnosis. People have better access to information," he says, adding that instead of relying on social media, patients should consult a maxillofacial specialist for TMJ problems.

ANSHU DEVI

Discarded eye tissue offers hope for cornea shortage

With just 3 out of 10 who need corneal transplants getting it, this breakthrough could help bridge a big gap

Shimona Kanwar@timesofindia.com

For every 70 people losing sight to corneal blindness, only one donor tissue is available worldwide. And in India, where around 1 lakh new corneal transplants are needed annually, only 30,000 can be provided. Currently corneal transplants rely entirely on donated corneas from cadavers, but demand far outstrips supply. Researchers hope to bridge that gap with a bioengineered cornea that a team from Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh has designed. These scientists have used the corneoscleral rim, a ring-shaped piece of tissue left behind after surgeons remove the diseased cornea from a patient's eye during keratoplasty (corneal transplant). Usually discarded, this rim contains stem cells and other corneal cells that make it a powerful biological template. "People worldwide are trying to make artificial corneas, but our novelty lies in the fact that we've used something that surgeons reject as waste," says Manni Luthra-Guptasarma, principal investigator and professor at PGIMER's immunopathology department.

Scientists placed the discarded corneal rim in a dish to be used as a 'mould' into which they poured collagen, a natural protein found abundantly in the eye. The collagen, guided by

HOW WAS IT DONE?



surgical handling. So, the team introduced riboflavin (vitamin B2) and exposed the collagen to UV-A light which helps create stronger bonds within the collagen network. To make it more like natural tissue, living corneal cells were added to the developing cornea's surface, promoting a more complex, multi-layered structure. Called "cornea-like tissue" or CLT, this version was more rigid, and easier to handle.

Monday | May 18, 2020 | India

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One-Year PG vs Two: Reimagining the master's degree under NEP 2020

Rajalakshmi Ghosh
@timesofindia.com

As the implementation of NEP 2020 gains steam, PG education is undergoing one of the biggest reimaginings in decades. Universities are redefining master's pathways to a one-to-two-year transition. PG education is now depicted as a renaissance movement, heralding a New Year Undergraduate Programme (NUP) that has four semesters and a three-year degree. The NUP is aimed at augmenting Indian higher education with global degree on-pointing (honorary and co-terminus) research and teaching navigation. Hosa India a tripartite education system is

FVUP followed by two-year PG will place Indian students the strongest standing in foreign varsties and global job markets

sest. This transition has been shaped both by NEP 2020 and the changing variance of the global education economy. Universities are now depicted as renaissance machines who are multidisciplinary, learning-critical, globally competitive, and capable of stimulating research-led learning sectors driven by industries and innovation. The new year PG model emerges from this amidst. It assumes that dissonance underlying an FYUP, particularly honors as

Curriculum design

papers, in practice however, a four-year UG following by two-year PG is a strong standing both in intrinsic merit and in the global market. "or via Rish Kumar Rakod, Vice-Chancellor, OJ University.

Considering the Indian one-year PG is still at the early stages of implementation and the two-year PG is already in the pipeline, the two-year PG is a strong standing both in intrinsic merit and in the global market. "or via Rish Kumar Rakod, Vice-Chancellor, OJ University.

maile the system, but it's ten us," she said. Rudrabhai Chakraborty, associate professor, Department of Design, Nirma University, DC, Mevta the UG and PG degree as "a commercial outcome mainly to train human key talent universities of the PG". Highlighting that the 2-year PG improves an academic rigorous and time-tested structure. In sum, "For quality to be in the UG programme, there is an emphasis to the PG programme from 2 years in 1 year. This is an unambiguous future of the program, sound and the one-progressive training in the 2-year PG programme is a strong standing both in intrinsic merit and in the global market. "or via Rish Kumar Rakod, Vice-Chancellor, OJ University.

NEET UG paper leak pushes medical exam towards CBT

Before fully transitioning to this mode, NTA must increase exam centres in rural districts, provide free of cost mock sessions and ensure affordable access

Divyansh Kumar
@timesofindia.com

The cancellation of NEET UG 2020 following a controversy exam or an online test to the biggest controversy in the Indian medical entrance exam, promoting the Centre to end the controversy and ensure a smooth transition to CBT. The controversy stems from the NEET UG 2020 exam, promoting the Centre to end the controversy and ensure a smooth transition to CBT. The controversy stems from the NEET UG 2020 exam, promoting the Centre to end the controversy and ensure a smooth transition to CBT.



The entrance exam will be reconducted on June 21

Leakage often happens during transport and protection. The committee had recommended that the NTA expand computer use with infrastructure and not encourage these systems," the official says. Conducting a CBT for over 14 years cannot come near

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spectives Dissolve Con

they all emphatically declared that the mind is the cause of world and that knowledge of Brahman leads to moksha, or emancipation, which is the goal of life, explains Swami Sivananda. One finds apparent contradictions while studying the scriptures. On one hand, scriptures say that one must transcend the mind and intellect to realise the supreme Truth, which is subtle, abstract, infinite, and all-pervading. On the other hand, it is said that knowledge of Supreme Reality arises only in a purified mind/intellect as *pramāṇa*. It is said that in deep sleep, one experiences the Self but does not know it because the mind and the intellect are not functioning. Mind is described as both friend and enemy of a person, leading to bondage and liberation. Mind, per se, is not good or bad; an impure and gross

mind creates bondage, while a pure and subtle mind is an instrument for salvation. This applies to intellect, too. While explaining creation, it is held that Brahman is the ultimate causeless cause of creation, referred to as *abhinnā nimitta upādāna karan*—non-different material and efficient cause of the world. In other instances, it is held that creation is mere appearance, an illusion like a perceived snake in the rope or a mirage in the desert. When one realises that the experienced world is also unreal, like the dream world upon waking, it is not given much attention or importance. Journey always proceeds from known to the unknown, from gross to subtle. Vedanta has *adhyarop* and *apavad*, superimposition and negation. Lower truths, also referred to as *anatma*/non-self, are superimposed on the highest truth—Brahman/Atma. We must first accept the



THE SPEAKING TREE

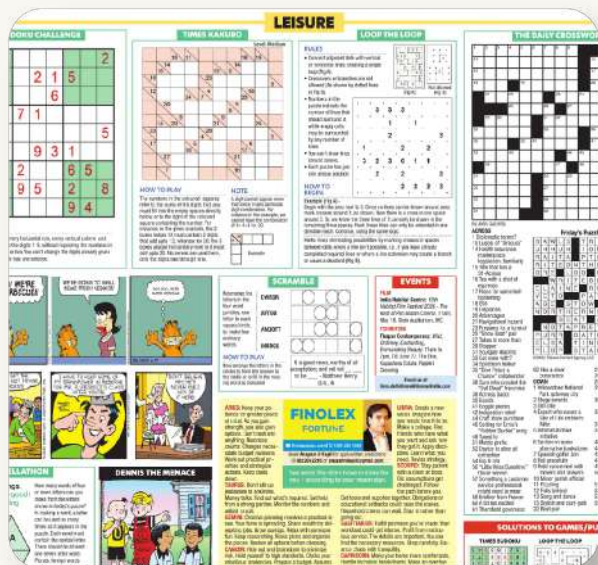
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Wisdom, every morning. TOI's daily column on faith, philosophy, and inner well-being; drawn from every tradition.



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From R.K. Laxman's legendary Common Man to today's sharpest political cartoons, TOI has shaped India's editorial humour for over 70 years. A daily dose of wit that turns the news into a smile.



A puzzle a day keeps the brain in play.

The Leisure page is TOI's daily invitation to pause. Crossword, Sudoku, Kakuro, comics, and horoscope; for the readers who don't just read the paper, they play with it.




 KAMAL
HAASAN
DEMANDS
TN GOVT
TO LAUNCH
STATE-
OWNED OTT
PLATFORM
P2

Today when I look back at some of my work, I feel like the actor in me has evolved. I see the difference. I hope and I'm assuming the audience also sees that. Of course, I would hate to think that I've arrived. I would hate to think that I know it all. I still feel like I'm learning

**KIARA
ADVANI**
EFFORTLESSLY ELEGANT:

Kiara Advani on the Bombay Times Lounge

Madhureeta Mukherjee

From winning hearts in love stories to carving her space in some of contemporary cinema's most anticipated films, Kiara Advani has built a career that blends relatability with undeniable star power. Audiences have connected with her warmth and emotional honesty in films like *Kabir Singh*, *Satyamev Kai Katha* and *Jugjue Jeeto*, but her journey has never been confined to romance alone. With films like *War 2* and now the much-anticipated *Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups*, she is stepping into a larger cinematic canvas. On *Rustomjee* presents the *Bombay Times Lounge*. Kiara joins us at a defining moment in her life - balancing the demands of stardom with the emotions of new motherhood, and reflecting on the choices, risks and relationships that have shaped her journey so far. Here's a sneak peek into an intimate conversation with the actress.

CONTINUED ON P 4

Rustomjee
Presents

**Bombay Times
LOUNGE**

 Kiara with Vicky Kaushal in a still from *Lust Stories*

"When I did the anthology, *Lust Stories* (2018), I shocked myself. At that point, I didn't look at it through the lens of women empowerment, or taking a step towards breaking certain stereotypes. For me it was like... I want to work with Karan Johar and I'm getting this fantastic platform, so why not? But today when I look back, I realise it was a bold choice as that film spoke of so many more things and there was a larger story there. That one short film gave me the kind of validation that you are really looking for in your early days"

 — Kiara on *Lust Stories* and her first brush with critical acclaim

The full episode with Kiara Advani will drop soon on the Bombay Times YouTube channel

14 YEARS LATER
**Cannes, Indian cinema
and Kashyap's views
remain much the same**
THROWBACK
**CANNES
WATCH**
2012
MAY 15, 2012

EVERETT COLLECTION

"THIS IS THE BIGGEST YEAR SO FAR FOR INDIA IN THE HISTORY OF CANNES, BECAUSE ITNI FILMEIN EK SAATH KARHI NAHIIN GAYIN"

FOR THE MARKET (SECTION AT CANNES), ANYONE CAN GO. A RANDOM KANTI SHAH CAN ALSO GO. ALL HE HAS TO DO IS PAY MONEY AND BOOK A SCREENING. SO INDIA SE JO FILMEIN JATI HAIN, HAMESHA MARKET MEIN JAATI HAIN, WHICH IS SIMPLY A PAID SCREENING. AND THE RED CARPET PEOPLE GO TO, WHICH WE MAKE SO MUCH FUSS ABOUT, IS SPONSORED BY SOME BRANDS WHICH SUPPORT THE FESTIVAL


 CANNES WE PLEASE TALK
SENSEI Anurag Kashyap

2026

Red Carpet's the least important part of Cannes. What matters more is the cinema. And I don't even think most people come here for cinema anymore. Even many of the Indians coming for the market or the Indian Pavilion are barely watching films. Very rarely do I see someone actually attending screenings. I only saw two people watching a film

P3

DelhiTimes


**John should be
the next Bond:
Shekhar Kapur**

As the studio officially kicked off the search for the next 007, filmmaker Shekhar Kapur weighed in with his own pick for the iconic spy: "At the search of the next Bond heats up, my vote for the next James Bond after Daniel Craig would be John Abraham. He has the cool 'shaken not stirred' persona and certainly good actor with the 'Bond Charm', the director tweeted in a post on Saturday. He added, "By the way Daniel Craig was cast as James Bond after the producers saw him in my film *Elizabeth*."

According to *Variety*, Tom Francis (26), known for playing Joe Gillis in *Sunset Boulevard*, has auditioned for the role of Bond. **TNN**

What's Musk's beef with Nolan?


DELHI TIMES

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Delhi's daily buzz. From Bollywood and Page 3 to fashion, food, and weekend plans - Delhi Times has captured the capital's lifestyle every morning for over 30 years.



Bennett & Coleman

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Luxury tables say cheese to desi artisanal picks

Anagha Savant ...
 As the pandemic has taken its toll on the economy, luxury tables may be looking for a new way to impress. One way is to go local. In the past few months, many restaurants have started featuring local artisanal cheese on their menus. This is a trend that is likely to continue for some time.

Indian cheeses in international dishes

Restaurants are increasingly using Indian artisanal cheese to create global dishes with a local edge. Chef Shantanu Bhattacharya, owner of Puri, says, "We use Paneer, Mozzarella, and other Indian cheeses in our international dishes. It adds a unique flavor and texture to the food."

It is a trend that is likely to continue for some time. As the pandemic has taken its toll on the economy, luxury tables may be looking for a new way to impress. One way is to go local. In the past few months, many restaurants have started featuring local artisanal cheese on their menus. This is a trend that is likely to continue for some time.

Global wins for Indian cheese

Indian cheese has been making its way into international kitchens. In the past few months, many restaurants have started featuring local artisanal cheese on their menus. This is a trend that is likely to continue for some time.

Challenges in producing artisanal cheese in India
 Producing artisanal cheese in India is a challenge. It requires a lot of skill and knowledge. The process is time-consuming and expensive. However, it is worth the effort for the unique flavor and texture it provides.

Roast duck and tiramisu: Inside Trump's China banquet

President Donald Trump and his wife Melania had a state dinner in Beijing, China, on May 20. The menu was a mix of traditional Chinese dishes and Western favorites. The main course was roast duck, a dish that is popular in China. The dessert was tiramisu, an Italian dish that is popular in the West.

Chin has long been a favorite of art lovers
 China has long been a favorite of art lovers. The country has a rich history of art and culture. Many people are drawn to China for its beautiful scenery and its ancient traditions.

Culture is the arts elevated to a set of beliefs - Thomas Wolfe

Thomas Wolfe was a famous American writer. He wrote about the importance of culture and the arts. He believed that culture is what elevates a society. He thought that the arts are a reflection of a society's beliefs and values.

ART & CULTURE

Diplomacy, culture blend at Norway's Constitution Day gal



Head of Norway's Constitution Day in Delhi
 The Norwegian Ambassador to India, Einar Storrer, and his wife, Elin Storrer, hosted a gala dinner to celebrate Norway's Constitution Day in Delhi. The event was attended by many guests, including the Indian Ambassador to Norway, Vikramjit Singh, and his wife. The gala was a blend of diplomacy and culture, with traditional Norwegian music and food.

MY CINEMA MY WEEKEND

finally done nge culture?



A study from Carnegie Mellon University (2020) found that weekly releases lead to greater subscriber retention. Platforms like Disney+ and Apple TV+ have largely avoided the binge, with weekly mini-batches of episodes (as with *Andor*) or hybrid schedules that follow a multi-episode premiere with weekly installments (*Stranger Things*). HBO Max also releases some series weekly, like *Heavenly Creatures*.

'When you really love a show, you start counting down to the next episode'

During the release of *The Pitt* (2015), the chairman of HBO and HBO Max, Casey Gray, explained that they aimed to create "15 weeks of engagement" - sustained media attention, fan theories, *@HBOmax*

CINEMA

ART & CULTURE





SHOOTING STAR

William Tell

When he was just 7 years old, Abhinav placed an empty bottle on a maid's head. He took aim with his air gun and before elders realized what the boy was up to, fired. Fortunately, he was on target.

Bond Connection

The gun Abhinav uses is a Walther PPK rifle, James Bond too uses a Walther, other than a Beretta. That's not all—Abhinav's gold is for India the seventh individual Olympic medal, 907, huh?

Guns N' Roses

Abhinav's private shooting range is air conditioned with a computerized target transportation system of international standards. Has 7 rifles, top-of-the-line ammo and other shooting gear.

New Big B

His dad, A S Bindra, has announced he will gift his golden son with a Rs 200 crore hotel. On Monday, rewards had totalled over Rs 2 cr. Media managers said Abhinav's endorsement power would now be the same as Ghisla's.

Dad's Loaded

Abhinav's father, A S Bindra, owns a 100% export-oriented food processing unit near Chandigarh. He is building the 5-star Abhinav Inn & Hotel in Dehradun. Abhinav is a director in the businesses.

Monk's Grit

Last year Abhinav, also known as the Monk, beat back a spinal injury. He has also overcome a serious vision problem for a marksmanship—he wears glasses with minus 4 power.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

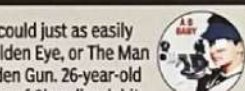
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INDIA'S GOLDFINGER



BINDRA, DON'T THAT! Gold medalist Abhinav Bindra is hugged by his coach Gabriele Buehmann after winning the final of the men's 10m air rifle competition at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games on Monday.

Our headline could just as easily have read: Golden Eye, or The Man With The Golden Gun. 26-year-old Abhinav Bindra of Chandigarh hit bullseye in Beijing, giving us our first-ever individual Olympic gold. Boom Boom Bindra's fired up a nation's imagination and given Indian sport a desperately-needed shot in the arm.



A S Bindra

Alok Shikha | TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Beijing: The final shot from Abhinav Bindra's rifle may not have been heard outside the packed hall inside the Beijing Shooting Range Complex on Monday morning. But its bang was loud enough to lift the spirits of a billion-plus Indians back home. No individual gold has mattered so much to so many people in the history of Olympics. It was a medal for Abhinav: it was redemption for India. Never again will anyone be able to point a snarling, neurotic finger and say: "No Indian is good enough to win an individual Olympic gold."

Hockey's eight gold medals notwithstanding, the last coming 28 years ago, this is the first time that an Indian has won an individual gold since the modern Olympics started in 1896. There is no greater joy than listening to the stirring sound of the national anthem on the world's biggest stage. The global media looked on as grown-up Indians danced like little children shooting stars of joy. How could they understand?

The joy was also spurred by the improbable nature of the triumph. The script of the men's 10m air rifle final might have been penned by Alfred Hitchcock himself. Bindra, who qualified for the final in the morning with the fourth-best score of 596, looked calm and assured when the call for the first shot came. The first shot—10.7. He started with a bang and that set the tone for the 10-shot final. He followed it up with a 10.8. After the third shot, a 10.4, he had moved from No. 3 to No. 2. Then, Bindra slowly ate into the lead of Finland's Henri Hakkinen and went ahead after the seventh shot with 10.6. Hakkinen caught up with him after the ninth shot, and with one shot to go, the Indian and the Finn were tied at 68.7 points. There was a head-on collision inside the hall. The suspense was unbearable. It's in such situations that champions show their mettle.

Continued on P 23

BINDRA JAIL: P 2, 12, 21-24

THE COMEBACK KID

FOR A YEAR, HE COULDN'T LIFT A RIFLE

Arifa Mukhopadhyay | TNN

Chandigarh: Even as a kid, Abhinav Bindra's backline was different. The boy was reclusive, but not unfriendly. No one could quite put a finger on him. He seemed to have a secret code that nobody could reach out to. And as the bespectacled boy (with 4 power in both eyes) took to the shooting range, there was a steady determination; thus even his closest friends could not fathom. This last attribute was perhaps what

pulled Abhinav back from the brink. Since 2006, he was down and out for months with a severe-threatening spinal injury caused due to ligament overstretching in the lumbar region. All these months, Abhinav could barely pick up his 8-kg rifle, let alone shoot with it. Less than perfect shooting technique, lack of trained doctors

and micronutrient deficiency can result in some of the common shooting sports injuries, says Dr Amit Bhattacharya, who accompanied Bindra to Zagreb and Beijing. So bad was the injury that many had written him off after he dropped out of the Delhi Asian Games in December 2006. But Abhinav wasn't one to give up. He was diligent

in his physiotherapy. He took up a thorough rehabilitation programme that helped reduce the strain on his spine and made some technical changes for a better posture. So, while the world had laid its focus on Abhinav, the shooter himself was completely focused on his recovery. And training. First at his private air conditioned shooting range, and then, in Germany under coach Gaby. The champion was quietly waiting for his moment—with patience and determination. On Monday, that moment arrived.



Parents A S Bindra and Babli Kaur

SALUTING ABHINAV BINDRA

DESH KI DHADKAN

HERO HONDA
Desh ki dhadkan

MARKET WATCH
BULLION

2 Delhi cabbies to hang

OTHER TOP STORIES
Hurriyat leader among 5 shot by police in Baramulla P 9

Precious Moments. Celebrate with Pure Gold

THE TIMES OF INDIA
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INDIA JOINS NUCLEAR CLUB
Successful underground test explosion

Boost to science, technology

How, why and what of nuclear blasts

Sop for railmen soon

Bid to derail train failed

Nation applauds feat

Protest in Japan

Political who's what

THE TIMES OF INDIA
IT'S TRUE! THEY'VE DONE IT!
MEN LAND ON MOON

MAN LANDED ON THE MOON TODAY AS AMERICAN NEIL ARMSTRONG AND BAZZ ALDRIN SET FOOT ON THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH'S SATELLITE. THE MOON LANDERS WERE LAUNCHED BY A SPACE SHUTTLE FROM FLORIDA.

Luna-15 too may land

PM's STATURE GROWS IN PARTY

Hideyoshih President

No curbs, else I will quit, says PM

THE HEAVENS ARE THE STAGE

There when history happened.



SUNDAY TIMES



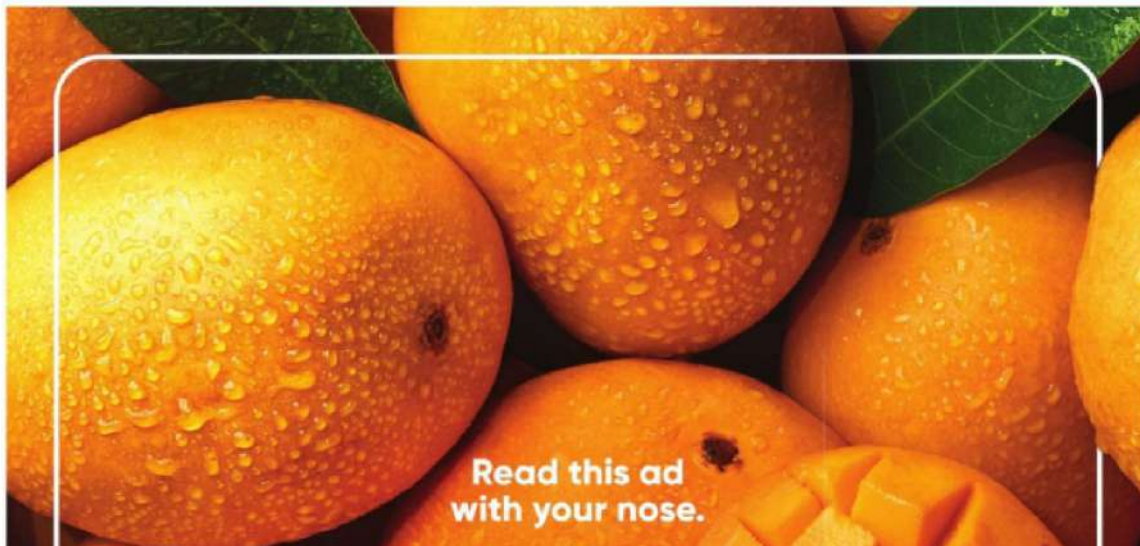
24-year-old Delhi woman creates ruckus outside **Salman Khan's** Panvel farmhouse seeking to marry him. Police detain her and send her for counselling

OF INDIA

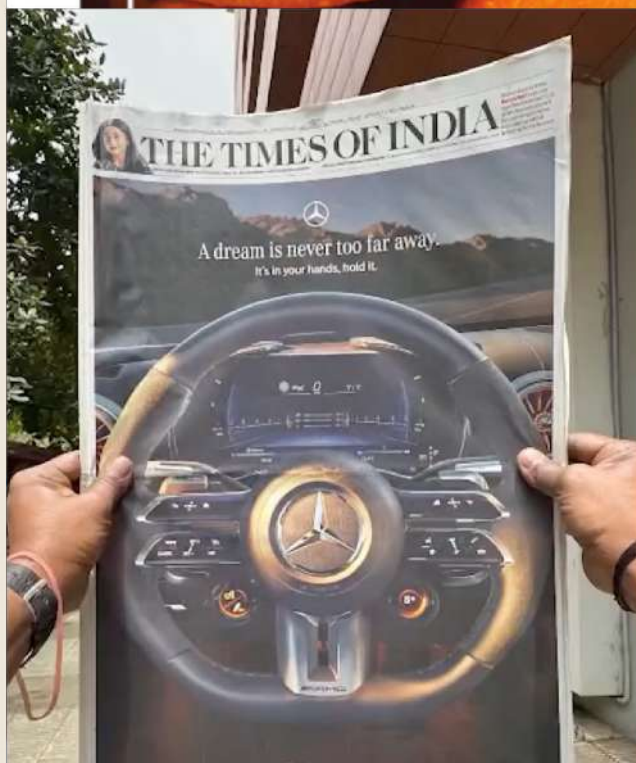
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4 crore trees outside forests in Haryana, finds state's first tree census

By Anshu Sharma

Haryana's first ever tree census, which was completed in Haryana, has revealed that there are 4 crore trees outside the state's forests. The census was conducted by the Haryana Sahitya Akademi, which is the state's literary academy. The census was conducted in 2022 and 2023. The census was conducted in 2022 and 2023. The census was conducted in 2022 and 2023.

Dozen delight: Flock of rare Himalayan griffon vultures spotted at the safari park in UP

By Anshu Sharma

A flock of 12 Himalayan griffon vultures was spotted at the Safari Park in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The vultures were spotted on January 1, 2024. The vultures were spotted on January 1, 2024. The vultures were spotted on January 1, 2024.

Development of kids through sports, arts

By Anshu Sharma

The Ministry of Education has announced a new scheme to promote the development of children through sports and arts. The scheme is called 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and is aimed at promoting the development of children through sports and arts. The scheme is called 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and is aimed at promoting the development of children through sports and arts.

ADDITIONAL assess lakes

By Anshu Sharma

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has announced a new scheme to assess the health of lakes across the country. The scheme is called 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and is aimed at assessing the health of lakes across the country. The scheme is called 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and is aimed at assessing the health of lakes across the country.

DPF starts operation to trace tiger with 'hang on leg' for treatment

By Anshu Sharma

The Department of Forests, Wildlife and Parks has announced a new scheme to trace tigers across the country. The scheme is called 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and is aimed at tracing tigers across the country. The scheme is called 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and is aimed at tracing tigers across the country.

first in India ,ngatir cows

By Anshu Sharma

The Ministry of Agriculture has announced a new scheme to promote the production of milk in India. The scheme is called 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and is aimed at promoting the production of milk in India. The scheme is called 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and is aimed at promoting the production of milk in India.

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EVERY BRAND.



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